

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 OPR-02 A-01

H-02 SCA-01 AID-05 VO-03 SR-02 ORM-01 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

INSE-00 /083 W

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 947

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMG, DA

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: A. COPENHAGEN 1227 B. STATE 97854

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1. WITH REFERENCE TO OUR INITIAL DEMARCHE ON THIS SUBJECT

(REF A), MFA DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY PER FERGO INFORMED ADCM ON MAY 22 THAT A CABINET DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED THE DAY PREVIOUS FOR DENMARK TO OFFER ASYLUM TO "UP TO 100 SOUTH VIETNAMESE POLITICAL REFUGEES AND POSSIBLY A FEW ADDITIONAL TO ACHIEVE REUNION OF FAMILIES". THIS DECISION, HE SAID, IS INTENDED TO SATISFY OUR INITIAL APPEAL BUT WILL BE IDENTIFIED PUBLICLY AS A RESPONSE TO THE APPEAL MADE BY THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. THE UNHCR IS BEING INFORMED AND A PRESS RELEASE WILL BE ISSUED LATER IN THE DAY ON MAY 22.

2. FERGO SAID THAT THE DANISH REPLY TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WILL INDICATE THAT DENMARK WOULD LIKE TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO THOSE REFUGEES NOW IN HONG KONG WHO HAD BEEN DISEMBARDED BY THE DANISH FREIGHTER. "CLARA MAERSK" FOLLOWING A RESCUE OPERATION AT SEA.

3. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, FERGO SAID THIS GOVERNMENT DECISION WILL NOT AFFECT ITS POSITION REGARDING THE APPROXIMATELY 200 SOUTH VIETNAMESE CHILDREN (PRINCIPALLY MONTAGNARDS) WHO WERE BROUGHT TO DENMARK IN A PRIVATE RESCUE OPERATION SHORTLY AFTER THE FALL OF SOUTH VIETNAM. HE NOTED THAT THE DANISH GOVT HAD CONSENTED TO RECEIVE THESE CHILDREN ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE 24 OF THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION OF AUGUST 12, 1949, WHICH RELATES TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR. PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, DENMARK FINDS THAT THESE CHILDREN MUST RETURN TO THEIR NATIVE LAND UPON THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. FERGO ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT DENMARK WILL FIRST ASSURE ITSELF THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE ADEQUATE CARE UPON RETURN. HE EXPECTS CONSIDERABLE TIME WILL PASS BEFORE SUCH EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE. THE DANISH RED CROSS HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ITS COUNTERPART IN SAIGON BUT IS HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN DOING SO.

4. THE ADCM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION, SAID HE HOPED THAT DENMARK WOULD CONSIDER THE ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THE FUTURE, AND ASSUMED THAT DENMARK WOULD VERY CAREFULLY EVALUATE THE PROSPECTS FOR THE 200 SOUTH VIETNAMESE CHILDREN PRESENTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN DENMARK BEFORE DECIDING TO RETURN THEM TO THEIR HOMELAND.
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